



Summer has come again with all her leafy train. June like a buxom lass of sixteen, blossoms out with life and healthful vigor. The air seems purer than at any other time of year. The perfume of flowers scents it. The winds blow more gently, as if fearing to disturb the tender shoots that are everywhere peering heavenward.

The farmer goes forth with a heart bounding with joy and hope as he sees the grass taller this morning than it was yesterday. His corn is up and looking glad to see him who planted it. The calves are growing rapidly and the cows come home with their dams tended after the milking. The trees have put on a richer and thicker foliage than usual. All nature smiles, and he is indeed a morn, uncomfortable man who does not sympathize with nature at this season of the year. Man's heart expands with all of nature, as he sees this bursting forth into life and beauty. Planting is done amid more than usual difficulties, and now the cultivator and the hoe must be kept busy before having come on.

We anticipate good crops the present year in spite of the cold and backward spring. In truth, we sometimes think a backward spring the sign of a good harvest. When vegetation does start, it puts forth with much vigor, and requires a much shorter time to mature than when it has been started earlier, and while thorns and thistles may be all the more vigorous, we must be up and doing and cease complaining.

"The Author might a nobler world have made, In bright green hills and vales arrayed, And all its facts in flowery songs displayed." The author of this poem, I suppose, had no horse, and brought north spicery groves instead of thorn; like the author of "The Farmer's Joke," he might have his cowshed, and honored all the plains. But his creatures gave a better soil.

Permit me to add, That some reward his industry should crown,

And that his food in part should be his own.

Nature's chemistry is busy at work elaborating the juices, the perfumes, the paints for the flowers, and the sweets to gratify man's taste. How she does it is all still a profound mystery to man. The sun sends down his rays, which in some hidden manner accomplishes all those things. Let us hope on, and labor on, and all our efforts will be crowned with a rich harvest.

Comparison of Seasons.

Nature, we are sure, always compensates us for all our seeming disadvantages. If we have what is termed a late, backward spring, it is generally followed by warm, quickening weather, and a corresponding lengthening of the season in the fall; and records of observations upon the opening of the season and progress of vegetation, continued through a series of years, show a remarkable uniformity and in the aggregate but very slight variations.

Concerning the first observation, that we always receive compensations for all our drawbacks, we make but a statement or two. An experienced and intelligent farmer from China, tells us that some years ago the spring was backward, and his corn was not planted until the 15th of June. All the corn in the neighborhood was also planted about the same time. Notwithstanding this, it came forward rapidly, grew vigorously, and at harvest gave a heavy crop. A gentleman in this city, who has for years been a constant observer of the seasons, informs us that in 1844, there were twenty-one days in May that the sun did not shine, and no plowing was done until the 10th or 12th of June. At harvest, the crop evinced a fruitful year.

Concerning our second observation, that there is a remarkable uniformity in the opening of the seasons through a series of years, we present an extract from an article in a late number of the *Boston Cultivator*, furnished by a correspondent in Cumberland county, in this State. He says:

"I have kept a journal since 1840, and every year except two (1850 and 1857) have noted when the apple trees were in full bloom. I noted down from the earliest or latest, but endeavored to give an average. This is as follows:

In 1849, May 23rd; 1851, May 1st; 1852, June 2d; 1853, June 7th; 1854, June 6th; 1855, June 2d; 1856, June 1st; 1857, June 7th; 1858, June 2d; 1859, May 31st; 1860, June 1st; 1861, June 7th; 1862, May 29th; 1863, June 1st; 1864, June 7th; 1865, May 28th; 1866, June 2d. The spring of 1860 was very early, and the 10th of June was a very rainy day; I said in my journal that it looked rather dark for farmers, not one-half the seed in the ground; but it was good grass weather, and there was a good grass crop that year, and the other crops were fair. May of 1861 was wet and cool, especially toward the end of the month, May, 1857, I recorded, not one warm day in it. May, 1858, cold, but very little seed in the ground yet. Now if these observations are correct, I think it is no new thing to have a cold, wet May, and I fact I think it is better for the grass than a wet and warm May would be, for it keeps the grass from running up, thus what is wanted to thicken it up at the bottom. Grass looks far better here now than I thought it could do, and is more valuable for farmers to be disappointed yet, not to work their pastures when it is too wet. The promise of seed time and harvest is sure, as the good Lord has never disappointed us, nor do I think he will this year."

Storm Signals at Harvest Time.

It has been estimated that the injury to grain and hay crops from storms during harvest, amounts to fully one-third the value of the crop; and recently, attention has been directed to this matter with a view to put in operation some plan whereby the approach of storms may be heralded, and much of this great loss to the crop saved in consequence.

The barometer, which is a most valuable article, is useful in this respect, but too much has been expected from it, or claimed for it by interested parties—as its care is used by many intelligent farmers fully proves. It is also well known, that for years the meteorologists at the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, aided by constant observers in all parts of the country, and by the telegraph, have kept a very close watch of the weather, especially of storms, during the time they are in progress. This plan, if it could extend to all farmers, would be of great benefit, but they are so isolated and remote from telegraph stations that it could become of value to them only at considerable expense and difficulty. One writer suggests the firing of cannons from the county seat or telegraph station, to warn farmers of the approach of a storm and the rapidity of its course. This might perhaps answer in case of a regular north-easter, whose course is somewhat regular, and can be calculated with some degree of accuracy; but thunder showers, which occasion a large part of the damage to crops, are generally of a local nature, often extending over but a small extent of country, and in a few hours exhausting their force. The dimension of this subject may bring out some practicable plan for apprising farmers in different sections of the country of the approach of showers as well as storms, that may be of immense benefit to them by giving timely warning when to secure or protect harvested crops from the dangers of exposure. Ultimately, we believe, our knowledge in this respect will be so much in advance of what we now have any idea of, as to be quite surprising.

A Plea for Flowers and Fruits.

In our issue of March 14th we published an extract from a private letter written by a valued friend, in which, speaking of the advantages of beautifying our homes with fruits and flowers, this passage occurs:

"As a people, we spend too much on our houses, and not enough in surroundings; no matter how fine a house or a farm is, if there are no shade trees, no flowers, and no garden, it is out of place, and soon which of the inmates will be sure to swear."

At the time, we knew this same from no theorist, nor from a man who could not afford what he spoke; but, wishing to pay a visit to our friend, and in his neighborhood a few weeks since, we greatly took advantage of a few hours leisure and were astounded at his simple and attractive surroundings of his home. We are satisfied a little description of them will interest our readers.

The farm is one we have been acquainted with from boyhood, and its owner we have known long enough to love for his love for fruits and flowers, and to honor for his gentlemanly and many qualities. The farm is level, rather inclined to be wet, and somewhat gravelly. It is not such a soil as apple and fruit trees have generally succeeded best upon. It is only within a few years that its owner—who has heretofore followed some other occupation, and carried on his farm as a somewhat secondary pursuit—has given his attention to fruits, and we are sure the reading of books and papers—in which we trust our own is to receive a share of the credit—devoted to rural pursuits, and we are sure a man who could not afford what he spoke, but, wishing to pay a visit to our friend, and in his neighborhood a few weeks since, we greatly took advantage of a few hours leisure and were astounded at his simple and attractive surroundings of his home. We are satisfied a little description of them will interest our readers.

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The Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Thursday, June 20, 1867.

COLLECTOR'S NOTICE.

Mr. V. DARLING is now engaged in canvassing the county of Cumberland, for the Maine Farmers' Association. Mr. Jas. STEVENS is on a visit to our subscribers in Kennebec County.

The Study of Mineralogy.

What a pity it is that there is so much ignorance respecting the simple mineral that meet our eyes every day. How many thousands of dollars are wasted by those in search of treasures hidden in the earth, for this search is generally made the most cursely by those who know the least about the various mineral substances. Let a piece of lead, silver, copper or gold be found in a neighborhood, and every shrewd substance, no matter what it is, is at once supposed to be some precious metal. The fool's gold, or iron pyrites, is at once made to look like gold, and a whole neighborhood is made crazy. Farms are bonded and sold, and the more exorbitant the price of the community are frequently ruined. Witch-hazel explorers are round with their divining rods to point out where the precious metals are, while mezmurers of all sorts are ready for a dollar to tell you where to dig. We venture the assertion that one hundred millions of dollars have been lost in this country within five years, by persons who have ignorantly pursued the search after mineral substances in the earth. scarcely anything has ever paid them out, and these men remain thus ignorantly into the pursuit of mineral wealth. The worst feature of it is, that such persons are unwilling to be advised at such times by those who have made these things a special study. They have caught the mining fever, and it must run its course, and they recover from it only to find themselves sadder if not ruined men.

Now very little knowledge of mineral substances might prevent this. Such knowledge as might be taught in our schools, would save thousands from thus foolishly squandering their time and money. A knowledge of twenty minerals, requiring an hour's time each day, would in two days render any clever boy or young man sufficiently familiar with all the substances absolutely necessary for all practical purposes, so that he could readily distinguish one mineral from another. We do not here mean that mathematical exactness while the professor would demand of a student in college, so as to tell what angles each mineral has, but those external characters such as are to be recognized at once by the sense of sight, and also their elementary composition. We go into a school almost anywhere, and find scholars spending weeks on annuities and geometrical progression and other almost useless exercises in arithmetic, which never are brought into active life, and yet they do not have the slightest conception of the very substances which they tread under their feet, or which are made use of in practical life.

It may be objected that our teachers are not qualified to teach these things. This is true, and this is why we write as we do to propose a remedy. It should be taught in our State Normal Schools. Two or three weeks each year should be devoted to this study by all the pupils till they can recognize at sight the more common minerals. No student should graduate without this knowledge. It is a subject within the reach of the student's mind, and provision should at once be made to supply that want.

Some may object that a knowledge of this subject will lead men to pursue the very same course we have endeavored to shun. It is far otherwise. For thirty years we gave instruction to classes in this study and we never knew one become insane in consequence. A few have pursued it as a study and have, in consequence, become successful as superintendents of mining operations, or have secured valuable positions in natural history, and others have become more intelligent farmers and mechanics in consequence. We believe the time has come when a knowledge of this subject is absolutely necessary for the education of youth who are to engage in practical life. The comparatively small number who go out of our normal schools, if acquainted with this subject, would impart their knowledge to other teachers, and in a few years the State might find itself in possession of teachers well informed in this branch of study. We do not thus write from any supposed predilection we have for the study, but we have endeavored to look at the subject in its bearings upon our various industrial pursuits. It is not impracticable that very small children will often render themselves familiar with the various minerals when they are pointed out to them and collect them with intense interest. They only need direction from those acquainted with them. These remarks may not apply to some locations, nor to indolent and stupid teachers who have as much as they can do to follow their text books in imparting knowledge.

AMERICAN OCEANIC SPORTS. Every one who loves to see a healthy and vigorous manhood, will rejoice at the recent revival among us of our truly national game, base ball. Base ball clubs have increased throughout the State to such an extent, that almost every village and country neighborhood now boasts of such an organization; and they not only enjoy much genuine sport among themselves, but friendly contests between neighboring clubs are becoming quite common, and if kept within reasonable bounds cannot but be productive of good in many ways. No complaint has been more generally made during the last dozen years than that we are an overworked people, too intent on business and having too few holidays. This complaint has perhaps been made chiefly by Englishmen visiting this country, but it is no doubt in a great measure true. The sports of the turf hardly take that rank in our country than they do in England, while cricket—a more scientific game than base ball, but not so exciting—although played to some extent out of New England, and boating, cannot be said to be very generally practiced by our people. But base ball is a truly American game, and a good representative of the lively, energetic, go-ahead youth of our country. Nothing is better for our office and warehouse clerks, boys at school, and all persons whose time is greatly spent in doors, than an hour or two spent each day at this game. It is a delightful and exciting exercise, giving strength to the body and a healthy sprightliness and tone to the whole system.

Croquet and archery, games in which our young ladies can appropriately engage with so much grace, are welcomed with enthusiasm among our national games, and we believe they should be practiced much more universally than they are. The former is a sort of out-door billiards or bagatelle; and the latter, although less popular than the rifle and pistol, is far more appropriate for young ladies, while it offers sufficient excitement to make it interesting, and is in itself a health-giving exercise.

Let the above, as well as other legitimate and proper out-door recreations, receive their full share of attention this delightful weather, and let all engage in and enjoy them—becoming thereby stronger in body, younger in heart, with the social qualities and affections cultivated and enlarged, and with a stronger, healthier growth, physically, mentally and morally.

THE HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY. The Augusta correspondent of the Boston Journal learns that the hydrographic survey of the water deserts of this State is making good progress under the commission appointed last winter for such purpose. It will be remembered that the resolve under which the commission acts gives them authority to employ competent engineers to make a thorough hydrographic survey of such of our rivers as they shall deem most advisable, and make a report to the Governor and Council of the fall and volume of water of said rivers, the supply and constancy of the water, their lake reservoirs and their accessibility and water, facts as will tend to show their advantages for the employment of manufacturing industry. It will be the means of calling the attention of capital to our extensive and too long neglected water power, and of opening centres of manufacturing industry which must ultimately place Maine in the front rank of industrial States.

Our thanks are tendered to L. M. Morrill for a copy of Linnan's Dictionary of Congress, comprising biographical notices of the members of Congress from all the States, from the organization of the Government, to July, 1866, together with other information of great value for reference.

A race came off at Riverside Trotting Park in Cambridge, on Thursday last, between the b. m. Express, the b. g. Shepard Knapp, Jr., the blk. g. Ben Franklin, and the b. g. McClellan. The race was for a purse of \$500, miles heats, best in five, to harness, and was won by Express.

The corner stone of the new Universalist church on Winthrop street, will be laid on Wednesday of the present week, with appropriate ceremonies. The services will commence at 4 o'clock P. M., and will be presided over by the pastor of the church.

We are under obligations to Wm. R. Prince, proprietor of the Linnean Gardens and Nurseries at Flushing, Long Island, N. Y., for packages of lower seeds of rare and desirable varieties.

The Congregational Society in this city, since the resignation of Mr. McKenzie, have voted without a pastor, to vote to invite Rev. Wm. E. Sage, of Cheever, Mass., as the pastor. It is not yet known whether he will accept the invitation.

Our thanks are tendered to L. M. Morrill for a copy of Linnan's Dictionary of Congress, comprising biographical notices of the members of Congress from all the States, from the organization of the Government, to July, 1866, together with other information of great value for reference.

A race came off at Riverside Trotting Park in Cambridge, on Thursday last, between the b. m. Express, the b. g. Shepard Knapp, Jr., the blk. g. Ben Franklin, and the b. g. McClellan. The race was for a purse of \$500, miles heats, best in five, to harness, and was won by Express.

The corner stone of the new Universalist church on Winthrop street, will be laid on Wednesday of the present week, with appropriate ceremonies. The services will commence at 4 o'clock P. M., and will be presided over by the pastor of the church.

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THE MAINE FARMER: - AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Editorial Correspondence:

LANCASTER, N. H., May 29th 1867.

DEAR FARMER.— This town is situated on the Connecticut River, ten miles below the line of the Grand Trunk Railroad, and twenty-four miles above Littleton, the next nearest railroad connection. Efforts are made to have a railroad to this place. The White Mountain travel seems to demand it. Lancaster was settled in 1764. The first white child was born just one hundred years ago. Its village contains about one thousand inhabitants, and is among the pleasantest villages in New England. The inhabitants are industrious and intelligent. Being a shore town, it has a score or more of lawyers to keep the public press. It has a flourishing academy, over which Mr. Irish, recently from Paris Academy, presides. There is a large iron foundry, employing some thirty hands, and a piano factory, which makes use of the pulp mill straw the greatest part of the time for the accommodation of parties visiting the pond. Every thing passed off in the pleasant manner. The weather was delightful, the heat and his excellent lady left nothing undone for the entertainment of their guests, and the occasion throughout was one of unalloyed enjoyment. The new boat was pronounced to be every thing which could be desired—thoroughly and handsomely built; of ample capacity, easily handled and a capital sailer. In compliance with the desire expressed by the proprietor, that the Association should christen the new craft, it was voted unanimously to confer the honor upon Mrs. Brown, author of "Yussi," "Crusoe's Island," &c. Illustrated by the author. New York: Harper & Brothers. 1867. 12 mo. pp. 64. Price \$2. August, E. Farno & Son.

Mrs. Brown is well known to the readers of Harper's Magazine, from which this volume of sketches is published—and there are few readers who have not enjoyed his quaint pictures and droll descriptions of foreign persons and places. This book takes the reader to Russia, Switzerland, Iceland, Denmark and Norway, and while abounding in droll and humorous passages, gives enough information to compensate for the time spent in reading it. For summer perusal it will prove an interesting volume.

The manufacturer of almost any other moulder is divided among several companies, with works situated at different points, each supplying the trade in its immediate vicinity, hence all machines bearing the same name do not necessarily perform alike; and it is the case that the company making the best machine of a given kind send one from their works to the great trials.

Now the Buckeye, to which the first premium was awarded, at Auburn, was built in New York State, and not in the works where all of the Buckeyes were built. K. Bro. of the Coors Republic, who commanded a regiment in the late war, greeted us while there with fraternal sympathy.

Through the invitation of the famous stage-driver of this region, Jim Poole, (not Jim Smith) we took a ride to Dalton, eight miles below. The road is level, running along the banks of the Connecticut. For ten miles the river is so quiet that a steamboat formerly used for passengers on this distance is now a quiet lake. Splendid farms may be seen all along the route. The only thing we missed was the orchards, one of which is expected to be found on every farm on the river of Maine. As we approach Dalton, the river banks are very high and the river becomes more narrow and rapid, so that it now assumes the name of Fifteen Mile Falls. At length we arrive at the Dalton Inn, a most imposing structure, recently built by Mr. Sumner, a gentleman who is more like a Baron in the midst of his estate, than to be found in any other thousand acres. Though eighty years old, he is as nervous and as active as a man of forty years of age. Among his other duties he has superintended his lumbering operations the past winter, and put into river a million and a half of pine lumber. His wife is equally capable for business, forming, we think, the cutest couple of their age, to be found in New England.

Jim furnished us a horse and man to go about four miles, to visit some reported gold mine in that vicinity.

The rocks here are mostly argillaceous slate,

through which powerful veins of quartz rock run,

and these have led many to suppose that gold exists there.

Considerable excitement exists in the neighbor-

hood of Dalton, T. D. Pierces & Son, a note

of which is published in the Dalton House.

It was acknowledged that the jury had been

subdivided by all present as among the most pleasurable recollections of their lives.

THE LITTLEST LIVING A&O. We learn from the Portland Press that Mrs. Eliza Ann Dennett of Scarborough, set fire to her house in that town, early last Monday morning, having, on the previous day, carried all her furniture into the upper part of her house, and at night put a little girl, who resided with her, to bed as usual. It was about 4 o'clock in the morning when the woman set fire to her own bed. The little girl knew nothing of it until her bedroom door burst open from the flames, and she then escaped by the window. Mrs. Dennett was seen by her neighbors, after the fire broke out, making for the river, evidently with the intention of drowning herself; but they headed her off and saved her.

There is no doubt the woman is deranged. She is about 60 years old, and was married some few years ago, but her husband deserted her shortly after the marriage. Though a very active and energetic woman, possessing considerable property, she has, lately, been low spirited.

A SMART OLD GENTLEMAN. Mr. Gideon Powers, an old citizen of Augusta, now in the eighty-fourth year of his age, has handed us a generous cake of maple sugar, made by him the past season, on the farm of Posters Stevens^{son}, in Paris. He informs us that he made three hundred and fifty pounds of sugar, taken from his own labor about fifty of the trees, collecting the sap and sugaring off without assistance. The name of MADAME PAREPA-ROSA, will draw a full house. She is acknowledged to be the greatest living singer, and her perfect acquaintance with the Italian, French, German and Spanish languages, her magnificent voice and thorough musical culture, together with her exquisite rendering of the eminent English and German ballads has proved her a worthy successor to Jenny Lind. Madame Parepa-Rosa will be accompanied by Mr. Theodore Habelman, the distinguished tenor; Sig. Faratti, basso buffo, from the Grand Opera of Paris; Sig. Fortuna, baritone; Mr. Carl Rosa, violinist, and Mr. T. Behrens, pianist. The name of the association, twenty-three in number, is A Personal Experience of Fire-Damp, Malmais Review, & Published every Saturday by Littell & Son.

THE ALBANY MURDER. Gen. Cole, the murderer of Mr. Hiscock, in Stanwick Hall, Albany, has been fully tried for murder in the first degree.

The following, from the New York Tribune corresponds to some of the circumstances of the murder, including a partial statement of Mrs. Cole, concerning her intimacy with the murderer:

"The following are the names of the jury as finally impanelled for the trial: Wm. B. Todd, J. K. Barst, Robert Ball, George A. Boliver, Thomas Berry, C. C. Sherived, James Y. Davis, Columbus Alexander, William McLean, B. F. Marcell, Beauf G. Gilding and Wm. W. Bartholomew. It is generally regarded that the jury impanelled for the trial: Wm. B. Todd, J. K. Barst, Robert Ball, George A. Boliver, Thomas Berry, C. C. Sherived, James Y. Davis, Columbus Alexander, William McLean, B. F. Marcell, Beauf G. Gilding and Wm. W. Bartholomew. It is generally regarded that the jury impanelled for the trial: Wm. B. Todd, J. K. Barst, Robert Ball, George A. Boliver, Thomas Berry, C. C. Sherived, James Y. Davis, Columbus Alexander, William McLean, B. F. Marcell, Beauf G. Gilding and Wm. W. Bartholomew. It is generally regarded that the jury impanelled for the trial: Wm. B. Todd, J. K. Barst, Robert Ball, George A. Boliver, Thomas Berry, C. C. Sherived, James Y. 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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Special Notices.



AYER'S CATHARTIC PILLS.

ARE to be used for purgative purposes when a stool is not passed, purgatives which have been used for a long time, and which have never been made by any body.

These effects have been admirably obtained by Dr. Ayer's Pills. They are safe, and exert the other medicines in use.

They are powerful to cure their painful

irritating properties stimulate the vital

functions, and restore the integrity of the

organs, purify the blood, and expel the

poisonous excretions of the body.

The agent below named is pleased to furnish our American

and foreign friends with the following

catalogue of druggists of the following complaints—

Catarrh, Bilious Complaints, Rheumatism, Dryness,

Hoarseness, Loss of Appetite, and Pain among the

Teeth, &c., &c.

For the cure of these diseases, Dr. Ayer's

Pills are to be had at all druggists.

Price per dozen \$1.00.

For sale by G. E. Ayer & Co., Boston.

20c.

FISHER'S COUGH DROPS.

A standard Remedy for Consumption, prepared

from the original recipe. Unrivalled for its efficacy.

A sure cure for Diseases of the Blood and Nerves.

It is a safe, safe, safe Remedy for Children.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER

Poetry.

UP IN THE HARRY.

Old Farmer Joe sits through the day,
And when he's done, walks about the floor.
When we're home, the sports of his girles,
And girls of stately form.

And four of clerks in the bay,
Reddy to start, well dressed and square,
To help us out the crop of hay.

A dozen loads of oats stand
And each sack stands on every hand,

The last carting of the land
Is now all over and done.

Our hands are full of work,
The house is festing in its stall.

The oats are bound up high,

And when the sun goes down,
As if there were some festival.

At length Old Farmer Joe sits down,
A pinch of snuff his eyes a taint.

Then comes the day to lay the hay,
And like a farmer takes man.

"How hot it is!" says he,
That is very hot we three—

Pitched to the lower loads of hay!

David—he calls it his "row";
And David died in Nevers.

David is here to lay the hay,
And who, of course, but little Joe?

I might have been—I can't tell what;

I might have been, but he tries;

Where money is more gay,

Perhaps beneath your nose;

But Mrs. Jones; or, Mrs. Jones;

Or a living at the law;

I might have gone to Congress, even;

Or a place in a Wall Street?

I might have had a place where?

But David is as it is;

What future waits him no man knows;

He has got, there, is he not?

It makes me sick to see,

Or politicians come to town;

Our state is rich, and health's more;

Or a place in a Wall Street?

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